

DEC 30 2004

Appl. No. 10/026,964

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Title: UTILITY DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM

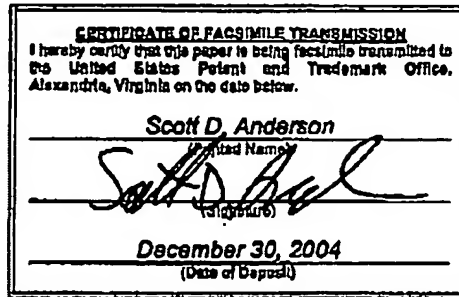
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Examiner: Naoko N. Slack

Art Unit: 3635

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.183**

The Applicants hereby petition for suspension of rules under 37 C.F.R. § 1.183 and request that the priority claim made and acknowledged by the PTO be conformed in the text of the present Application by amendment notwithstanding that the Issue Fee has been paid.

As grounds for this petition, the Applicants state as follows:

1. The applicable statute relating to a claim for priority (35 U.S.C. § 120) provides as follows (in pertinent part with emphasis added):

An application for patent for an invention disclosed in the manner provided by the first paragraph of section 112 of this title in an application previously filed in the United States, . . . which is filed by an inventor or inventors named in the previously filed application shall have the same effect, as to such invention, as though filed on the date of the prior application, if filed before the patenting or abandonment of or termination of proceedings on the first application or on an application similarly entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the first application and if it contains or is amended to contain a specific reference to the earlier filed

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